

BUSINESS REVIVAL SEEMS ASSURED WITH NEW YEAR

Unmistakable Confidence in Business and Finance Promises Employment for Thousands.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—Business conditions are showing unmistakable signs of improvement, for much has been accomplished to meet the unusual conditions which have prevailed in the country for many months.

The atmosphere in the financial world has been clearing gradually, and at the beginning of 1915 securities are maintaining a level of quotations fairly satisfactory, considering past developments. Although careful students of conditions throughout the United States do not expect to see any phenomenal revival in business during the early months of 1915, they do feel there will be gradual betterment, from month to month, until eventually there will have developed an unprecedentedly large volume of business in all lines of commerce.

This will entail the employment of thousands of men throughout the United States who have been idle for months. This fact alone promises better conditions generally, an unemployment of the rank and file always retards business.

CAUTION THE WATCHWORD. Conservatism doubtless will be the watchword in commercial, financial, railroad and other lines during the early months of the new year. The country is, and for the last five months has been, passing through a period of unprecedented unrest, and for that reason caution undoubtedly will be cautious until such time as it can see its way clear to enter upon extensive undertakings with a greater degree of safety.

Those who have followed the situation closely are of the opinion that the market which the stock and bond market has acted since the opening of the New York Stock Exchange. A pronounced advance in prices would not be welcomed at this time, because it undoubtedly would stimulate sales of American securities by foreign holders to a very considerable extent. If the country must purchase back its stocks and bonds from European holders, it is better to obtain them at a bargain than to pay top-notch prices.

Obviously, the European countries will need large amounts of money the next few years and they will naturally turn to America for assistance in this connection. If they cannot obtain loans in United States markets they must sell the country's securities, which will provide them with the necessary requirements to meet needs.

Prominent bankers believe loans should be made to the belligerents, preferably in a manner similar to the \$10,000,000 advanced to the French Government to pay for war munitions in this country, thereby permitting the entire amount contracted for to remain and be spent on this side of the Atlantic.

WILMINGTON SKIES CLEARING; BUSINESS BOOM EXPECTED

WILMINGTON, Del., Dec. 31.—Wilmington expects the new year to bring more material improvement in business. At the shops of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company about 100 additional workmen will be taken on January 1. The Harlan & Hollingsworth Company will begin work on the new ship for the Anglo-American Petroleum Company. This will be the largest vessel ever built in Wilmington.

Work will be begun at New Castle on the proposed project of the Bethlehem Steel Company with weather permits. The Street and Sewer Department here is waiting for good weather to start grading for considerable street and sewer work. Bethlehem's new plant being taken on at the Carney Point plant of the du Pont Powder Company, opposite this city. The company practically has exhausted the supply of bricklayers in this city.

MILLS IN COATESVILLE OPERATING AT CAPACITY

COATESVILLE, Pa., Dec. 31.—The business outlook is brighter than it has been for several months past. At the plant of the Lukens Iron and Steel Company preparations are being made for the starting of several additional mills long idle. The Worth Brothers Company Iron Works, while not operating at more than 60 per cent capacity, show a return of prosperity, improvements being made in all departments. The Coatesville Roller Works, the doors of which were closed for many months, are running on full time.

CHESTER'S TEXTILE MILLS RUNNING ON FULL TIME

CHESTER, Pa., Dec. 31.—No announcements have been made relative to the resumption of any local plant that has been idle, but the industrial prospects for the early part of 1915 in this city are nevertheless bright. Several of the local steel plants showed marked activity during November and December, and the officials of the concerns speak in optimistic terms of the prospects for the new year. The textile plants here are all running on full time.

BIG PLANTS IN WEST CHESTER TO RESUME OPERATIONS

WEST CHESTER, Dec. 31.—The new year will see prosperity in West Chester, according to the present outlook. It is promised on January 4, that the plant of the Sharpless Separator Company, the largest industry of the town, which has been closed for a month, will resume and give employment to 2000 men.

INDUSTRIAL HORIZON BRIGHT IN HARRISBURG

HARRISBURG, Dec. 31.—Local manufacturers say with the arrival of the new year the industries will boom. Henderson Gilbert, president of the Chamber of Commerce, which is aiding in making a Federal census of local industries, believes that bright prospects are in store for the industries here.

HOLIDAY FOR THE PRESIDENT Business Laid Aside at White House Over New Year.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—President Wilson will devote himself entirely to holiday recreation today, New Year's and Saturday. He will see no callers and will not allow official duties to disturb the White House festivities unless an urgent call for his attention comes. Following the custom set last year, the President will hold no general New Year's reception tomorrow.



UNCLE SAM'S "BUG MAN" Dr. L. O. Howard is here attending the convention of scientists.

SUFFRAGE HAS SUPPORTERS IN SCIENTISTS' CONVENTION

Dr. L. O. Howard Praises Women's Work for Reform.

Woman suffrage has many staunch supporters among the noted educators who are attending the convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. L. O. Howard, chief of the Department of Entomology of the United States Agricultural Bureau, believes that women ought to vote. His wife and three daughters are ardent suffragists. "In my travels I have found that women in the small cities and towns in the rural sections of this country are always the real workers for cleanliness," he said. "If a woman is a good house cleaner she certainly can enlighten the municipality on how to keep the highways in a sanitary condition."

Doctor Howard is known throughout the country as the "bug man." He is said to know more about ants, flies and other insects than any other man. He said today that about \$1,000,000 damage was done yearly in the United States to merchandise and crops by insects.

NEW YEAR SPURS TO PROGRESS, SAYS TRANSIT DIRECTOR

Taylor Declares City Faces Its Greatest Opportunity to Gain All Kinds of Improvements.

Director A. Merritt Taylor, of the Department of City Transit, today in a New Year's greeting to the people, pointed out that there was no better time for the city to take advantage of the opportunity to advance.

"Recent Taylor expressed the hope that adequate transit facilities would be obtained, that Philadelphia might hold its proper position with other cities unchallenged, and declared that better transit would redound to the benefit of the city and its people.

PHILADELPHIA'S OPPORTUNITIES

"Philadelphia will enter upon the New Year with boundless opportunities and a firm determination to secure the completion of public improvements already undertaken, and the construction of such additional facilities as are necessary to the prosperity, comfort and convenience of the citizens, so that our title to a position among foremost municipalities of the world may be properly defended.

"The debt of the city is fully offset by the value of its gas and water works, hence it occupies a financial position equivalent to that of cities which are unincumbered by debt and which do not own such properties.

"Philadelphia is in a position to comply with the public demand for the establishment of proper rapid transit facilities for the people, in such manner as will not only avoid increase of the tax rate, but also bring great profit to both the city and the citizen. Improved transportation facilities will permit the population to extend over a vastly wider area without the expense and loss of time in transit, will offset the existing tendency toward undue congestion in central districts, will relieve the present congestion of traffic on surface lines and will eliminate discriminations, which, at present, from a transportation standpoint, are imposed upon both person and locality.

"Recent favorable legislation enabled the city to embark upon a great constructive era at a time when an enormous saving may be effected on account of the low price of material of all classes, at the same time furnishing a great amount of work for the unemployed.

"The pending Constitutional amendment still further increases the power of the city to finance the construction of permanent and income-producing public improvements in a businesslike and economical manner.

"A country-wide movement must be started on the part of individuals, municipalities and corporations to ferret out every kind of work, both great and small, which can be executed to advantage at this time.

PRISON FARMS CONSIDERED State Penal Commission Likely Will Recommend Reform.

The Commission on Revision and Amendment of the Penal Laws of Pennsylvania met again today in the office of Chairman Edwin M. Abbott and continued consideration of the report to be presented to the incoming Legislature. At yesterday's session it was definitely decided to recommend the employment and compensation of prisoners as the most important step in remedying conditions in penal institutions, and this morning the commission practically agreed to advocate the establishment of farms in connection with several of the institutions. It is expected the report will be presented to the Legislature within a month.

INTAGLIO PORTRAITS OF GERMANY'S ROYAL FAMILY

Recent photographs of the entire reigning family of the German Empire. Reproduced in the beautiful intaglio process on a separate sheet of heavy paper, 10 x 15 inches, suitable for framing. Given FREE as a special pictorial supplement to the

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DYING YEAR BIG WITH LEGISLATION OF VITAL MOMENT

Congress, Which Takes Recess Over the Holiday, One of the Busiest in Country's History.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—One of the busiest legislative years in the history of American Congressmen ended today with the recess of Congress over New Year's Day. Except for a six weeks' adjournment, the national legislators were in continuous session from January 12, 1914, until today. This statement would not be fair if allowed to stand, however, without the further comment that prior to January 12 Congress had been in session continuously since the incoming of the Wilson Administration, March 4, 1913.

Perhaps the most important piece of legislation enacted during the year was the law providing for the new banking and currency system. Creating from 8 to 12 regional reserve banks (later fixed at 12) under the direction of a Federal Reserve Board, and providing for the reserves of all the national and many of what had previously been State banks, to be kept with the Federal banks, instead of with correspondent banks in central reserve cities, as previously; this was probably the most radical reform in the currency system of the country ever put into effect. The provision for the discounting of commercial paper by the member banks, and the issuance of new currency to cover this discounting by the reserve banks, provided what was thought to be a strong preventive of panics, and provided also a sure remedy against temporary stringencies in the amount of actual currency on hand, especially at such times as when the crops are moved.

ALASKA RAILROAD AND CANAL TOLLS.

Another act of the year, that providing for the construction of a railroad in Alaska at a cost of \$35,000,000, and its operation after completion by the Government, was tremendously important from two different viewpoints. It provided for the opening up for use by the people of what President Wilson is fond of calling that storehouse of riches. Incidentally, it is regarded by some as a long step toward Government-ownership of all the railroads. Certainly, as it is operated year by year, it will form at least the basis of a comparison with the privately owned railroads in the United States.

One of the bitterest fights of the year was over the repeal of the tolls exemption clause for American-owned coastwise ships passing through the Panama Canal. The passage of this act through the big ditch will have to pay its way, just as though it were an American ship in the foreign trade, or for that matter a foreign-owned ship.

Two important measures of the so-called anti-trust program were enacted during the year. One of these created the Federal Trade Commission, which will exercise much the same sort of power over industrial corporations as is exercised over the railroads by the Interstate Commerce Commission, thus bringing both sorts of companies under Federal control.

BILLS THAT FAILED.

A number of important bills were passed by the House which were not enacted because of the failure of the Senate to pass them. These include the immigration bill, including the famous literacy test, which would restrict immigration, and modify the rules regarding it to meet the opinion of a number of authorities on immigration. Two of the most important of the conservation bills, that providing for the leasing of water power sites now withheld from entry and the general dam bill, were also passed by the House, but not by the Senate during the year, while one bill, the La Follette measure for soldiers' homes (the Senate prior to this year, however), but in such different forms that no agreement was reached during the year between the two houses.

Congress passed a resolution justifying the President's action in ordering an invasion of Mexico at Vera Cruz, following the insult to the American flag at Tampico by soldiers directly responsible to Huerta, at that time dictator of Mexico.

Twenty-six peace treaties, most of them the breathing-spell variety, providing for one year to interpose after any overt act before any hostilities should occur, were ratified by the Senate. The upper House also received more than 500 nominations from the President, and ratified most of them.

There were bitter fights over many of them incidentally, especially Paul M. Warburg and Thomas D. Jones, for the Federal Reserve Board, the first of whom was confirmed and the second withdrawn; Attorney General McReynolds, to be Justice of the Supreme Court; John Skelton Williams, to be Comptroller of the Currency; Interstate Commerce Commissioner Daniels and Henry M. Pindell, to be Ambassador to Russia.

WAR EMERGENCY MEASURES.

Some of the most important pieces of legislation of the year were those resulting from the European war, the war emergency bills.

One of these put the Government into the insurance business, that providing that the Government should write war risk insurance when private corporations would not underwrite business at reasonable terms. This has proved a great boon to shipping since the outbreak of the war. Congress made two distinct appropriations to bring stranded American citizens home from war-stricken Europe.

Another emergency war measure was that sweeping aside the tariff duties and other restrictions which had hitherto pre-

vented the placing of foreign-built ships under the American flag. The same measure also lodged with the President discretion to waive the restrictions regarding all the officers of such ships being American citizens, thus laying the foundation during the war for an American merchant marine, which would carry American products abroad regardless of the war conditions.

Congress also amended the Aldrich Vreeland emergency currency act, during the early days of the war, but before the Federal Reserve banking system had got into operation, so to make that workable, and it was availed of for the first time since its passage, years before. The Senate passed a cotton warehousing bill, during the early days of the war, providing for Government inspection and supervision of the warehouses, but this was lost in the House. A tremendous fight to have the Government buy cotton from the Southern planters at 10 cents a pound was defeated and the bill voted down.

Another result of the war, attributed to its cutting down of imports from foreign countries, with accompanying reduction in the tariff duties, was the war tax bill. This measure, providing for the raising of more than \$90,000,000 annually by internal taxation, was put through both Houses only after a most bitter fight, virtually all the Republicans voting against it.

Supplementing the Alaska railroad bill, passed early in the year, another measure, passed late in the fall, provided for the leasing of Government coal lands in that Territory, and also for the Government mining some of them itself, another instance of Government ownership which pleased the Socialists.

BRUMBAUGH STAFF TO INCLUDE NAMES OF PHILADELPHIANS

Governor-elect Expected to Choose Several Prominent Men of City as His Military Aids.

Several Philadelphians will be asked by Governor-elect Brumbaugh to accept "gold braid" jobs as members of his personal military staff, in recognition of their efforts on his behalf during the campaign, according to gossip in political circles. It is not expected that he will make a complete change in the personnel of military aids when the National Guard of Pennsylvania is reorganized under his administration.

Governor-elect appointed six Philadelphians aides-de-camp, and four of these will probably retain their uniforms and the active use of their title of lieutenant colonel. These four are James Elverson, Jr., Samuel D. Thomas, J. E. Murphy and Lewis E. Bettler. Walter T. Bradley and Benjamin Wolf will probably be succeeded by personal appointments of Don Brumbaugh.

The list of Philadelphians who are believed to have good chances of attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel as aides of the new Governor includes J. Howell Conover, Edward Morris, J. F. Wright, Thomas E. Hunter, John T. Windrim, Franklin Smedley and Elridge R. Johnson.

The Governor's personal military staff consists of 12 aides-de-camp, all of whom have the rank of lieutenant colonel. Governor-elect Brumbaugh is expected to increase the number of Philadelphians on the staff to eight.

The only man from another part of the State who has so far been mentioned for the honor is E. V. Babcock, of Pittsburgh, who was active in the Brumbaugh Citizens' Committee of that city.

MORE FUNDS FOR RELIEF WORK

Most Contributions Are for Aid of the Belgians.

Although the greater part of the Philadelphia relief work for war sufferers is being done for Belgians, contributions continue to come in for the neutral beneficiaries of the Red Cross Society. Francis B. Reeves, treasurer for Philadelphia and vicinity, reports the following receipts since his last published statement:

Table with 2 columns: Name, Amount. Total: \$4,588.52

SNATCHED WOMAN'S PURSE

Negro Thieves Get \$50 - Man's Pocket Picked in Car.

Two Negroes somewhere will have a bright New Year's. If they can still the voice of conscience. They snatched Mrs. Deborah Newman's pocketbook, containing a \$50 bill, while she was walking on North Bucknell street toward her home last night.

U. S. MARSHAL MARPLE ILL

Chief Deputy Marshal Thomas Marple, of the United States Marshal's office in the Federal Building, is ill at his home, 485 Springfield avenue, from an attack of appendicitis. His condition is not considered critical and an operation has not been performed. Mr. Marple has been in the Marshal's office nearly 30 years. He is a veteran of the Civil War.

Store Opens 8:30 A. M. WANAMAKER'S Store Closes 5:30 P. M.

Advertisement for Wanamaker's department store. Text: 'But a Short Remnant Left of this year, whose supreme events seem to have lengthened 1914 to more than 365 days. Such a long, hard year it has been! If only its long and somber fighting line might disappear with its last vanishing night and its nightmare forever ended. It is a new morning coming in over the eastern hills with New Year morning light, morning impulses, morning hope—morning with the darkness all burned out. A new program and a new possibility of a great true revelation of Peace! Whoever keeps on looking upward will think upward, and courage, like an eagle, mounteth with the occasion. Let him who sees afar make quick use of the moment, and he shall be crowned the genius of wisdom.' Signed: John Wanamaker. Date: December 31, 1914.

Large advertisement for John Wanamaker's department store. Text: 'This Store Closed All Day Tomorrow Starting the New Year at Wanamaker's on Saturday Morning WE WILL BEGIN—THE JANUARY SALE OF WHITE with a great collection of undermuslins for women and children; of silk, semi-tailored and lingerie waists; of Paris lingerie; of corsets and silk petticoats; of embroideries and white goods and housekeeping linens—all at prices which obtain only during the White Sale. WE WILL BEGIN—TO SHOW WOMEN'S NEW LINGERIE DRESSES of embroidered voile and net, new Spring suits of covert cloth and new English traveling coats of soft light tweeds. WE WILL BEGIN—THE SHOWING OF SPRING CLOTHES FOR YOUNG WOMEN with the new street dresses, evening frocks and tailored suits. WE WILL BEGIN—AN EARLY SHOWING OF SPRING MILLINERY with distinctive new models—the creation of our own and other artists. Hats suitable for Southern wear and traveling will be on display. WE WILL BEGIN—THE SHOWING OF SPRING SILKS AND NEW COTTONS—In the silks, "fleur de jeunesse" and the new 1915 foulards and such Spring dress cottons as English voiles and crepes, linens, silk-and-cotton fabrics and Scotch ginghams. WE WILL BEGIN—THE DISTRIBUTION OF A LARGE NEW PURCHASE OF MISSION FURNITURE, including several hundred pieces, such as davenports and settees, side chairs, rockers, morris chairs, stools and stands, at exactly half the regular prices. WE WILL BEGIN—THE SELLING OF 11,000 PAIR OF RUBBER OVERSHOES AND BOOTS for men, women and children at exactly half the regular prices, and every pair with our fullest guarantee as to the good quality of the rubber. WE WILL BEGIN—THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY SALE IN THE LOWER-PRICE STORE on the Subway Floor. There will be street, afternoon and evening dresses, furs, coats, suits and many new white dresses for children at remarkable prices. JOHN WANAMAKER